



The Stars are shining in Taylorsville

By Greg James | gregj@mycityjournals.com

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Alec Burks recently played in a game for the Salt Lake City Stars, he scored 13 points in 20 minutes. (Paul Asay/ Salt Lake City Stars)

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Aging Granite District schools in Taylorsville to be repaired, replaced if voters approve

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com



Last November, voters in the Alpine and Jordan school districts approved a pair of bond measures, totaling more than \$630 million. Soon after that, officials with the 68,000-student Granite School District began making the rounds—before city councils and community organizations—hoping to lay the groundwork for a successful bond vote of their own, possibly as soon as this fall.

“Our pursuit of additional construction funding had nothing to do with those (Jordan and Alpine) bonds passing,” said Granite School District Communication Director Ben Horsley. “Our school board has been evaluating options for more than a year. Our schools are aging, and we need to take action.”

On Dec. 14, Horsley and Granite School District Assistant Superintendent of Support Services Don Adams appeared before the Taylorsville City Council to explain the district’s goals. They say nearly half of all Granite Schools are more than 50 years old, and 20 percent of those 91 schools are considered to be in dire need of major repair or full replacement.

“All (school) buildings have unique life cycles,” Adams said. “And within those schools, the air conditioning systems may last about 30 years—carpeting maybe fifteen years, even though the foundations and walls normally last a lot longer.” If funding becomes available, district officials will evaluate which

schools need what repairs and how quickly.

Taylorsville City is home to 13 Granite District schools. Four of them—Arcadia, Taylorsville, Vista and Westbrook elementary schools—are listed among those needing the most improvement.

Independent engineers say school buildings normally enjoy a 60- to 70-year lifespan. For the Granite District to replace schools at that rate, it would have to construct one new elementary school every year, a new junior high every four years and one high school every eight years. District officials estimate the cost to do that would be \$36.6 million annually.

“We have shovel-ready projects now, just waiting for the necessary funding,” Horsley said.

Granite District officials are now distributing an eight-page pamphlet that explains their capital improvement needs and suggests ways to generate revenue. “The Future of Our Schools” brochure also describes how most structures are in particular need of security upgrades, seismic retrofitting and a variety of other renovations.

“In addition to the \$36.6 million the district needs for new construction, the board also wants to generate revenue to upgrade existing buildings,” Adams said. “Three options are now being considered, and the one the board favors would require about \$10.6

million each year, in addition to the \$36.6 million for new structures.”

The Granite School Board is now looking at a single tax increase, a series of bonds or a “hybrid” of both options.

“We are still very early in the process,” Adams added. “The board has not yet suggested any particular bond amount. At this point, it appears it would be in the mid \$200 million range. But for now, the district is most interested in getting feedback from the communities.”

One of several public meetings will be held Feb. 2 at Taylorsville High School. Other cities and communities involved in the process are: Holladay, Kearns, Magna, Millcreek, Murray, South Salt Lake and West Valley City.

“If residents express support for the board’s plan, a bond measure could be on the ballot this November,” Horsley said.

At least one Taylorsville City Councilman has already weighed in. As Granite officials were concluding their presentation, Council Vice-Chairman Brad Christopherson said, “I want to go on record now, saying I favor the improvements. I attended some of these schools myself, and when I go back to visit, it doesn’t look like much has changed. My kids are in Granite School District facilities now, and I want them—and all of our community’s kids—to have the best opportunities possible to succeed.” ✦

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Capital Planning
Community Meeting
Taylorsville High School

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Board of Education
Public Meeting
(2500 S. State Street)

FEBRUARY 8, 9, 10

"Brave New World"
Kearns High School

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Student Recess Day
No School

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Presidents' Day
No School

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Board Study Session
Public Meeting

FEBRUARY 22, 23, 24, 25

"The Tempest"
Taylorsville High School

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Board of Education
Public Meeting
(2500 S. State Street)

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Town Hall Meeting
Kearns High School

Did you know *nearly half* of the 91 schools in Granite School District are **more than 50 years old?**



Your Granite School District Board of Education is currently considering long-term planning and finance options for the 91 schools in the district. **WHY?**

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- ❑ **NEARLY HALF** of all Granite schools require updates, remodels and repairs to more than **75% of the building**.
- ❑ Along with structural needs, security and seismic upgrades are needed for most schools in the district.
- ❑ Current funding for school renovations and rebuilds is well below what's required to keep pace with needs.

Despite maintaining a fiscally responsible budget, a tax rate below the state average, and some of the **lowest administrative costs** in the country, our current model for financing capital projects is not enough to meet the needs of our school buildings.

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Salt Lake County Council
MESSAGE

**SL County discusses complex issues during
state legislative session**

Aimee Winder Newton, County Council District 3

There will be a number of issues important to Salt Lake County residents that will arise during the upcoming legislative session, some of which the Salt Lake County Council will be actively involved with. As residents of Salt Lake County we enjoy some of the best elements of living, working, and raising a family in Utah—but we also see some of the greatest challenges facing our state.

Homelessness is one of the most important and challenging issues we face in Salt Lake County. Anyone who has taken a drive through downtown Salt Lake City—particularly near the homeless shelter operated by The Road Home—has seen firsthand the number of people without a home and in need of food and shelter.

In a country, state, and community as blessed as ours, we have a moral duty to help connect all Utahns to resources they can use to climb out of the hole of poverty, homelessness, and whatever limitations hold them back from full self-sufficiency. This session, there will be an effort to secure an additional batch of funding for the collective

impact effort on homelessness, as well as much needed resources to create more affordable housing in the area.

Where appropriate, the County will join in discussions along with leaders from Salt Lake City and the criminal justice community to support good initiatives to tackle this

It is deeply important to me that I represent the interests of my constituents on the Salt Lake County Council, and that commitment extends to ensuring county residents have a voice on Capitol Hill during each legislative session.

complicated problem.

Criminal justice reform is an issue I have personally been very passionate about since I was elected to the County Council. Last fall, city and county officials teamed up for “Operation

Diversion,” which was a massive effort to clean up the Rio Grande area of Salt Lake City, while connecting non-violent offenders with alternatives to incarceration that will more effectively help them forsake drug abuse.

To continue the operation, it will need financial support moving forward. This will help alleviate the problems of crime and drug abuse that plague the Rio Grande area, and relate to homelessness as well.

These are just a few of the high profile issues affecting Salt Lake County residents that will come up this session. There are always unforeseen bills that generate attention, and we’ll keep a careful eye on anything that affects our residents.

It is deeply important to me that I represent the interests of my constituents on the Salt Lake County Council, and that commitment extends to ensuring county residents have a voice on Capitol Hill during each legislative session.

I’m excited to see progress on important issues like homelessness, criminal justice, and many more. +

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Corinne & Jack Sweet Library

New UFA chief ready for 'less drama, more action'

By *Tori La Rue* | tori@mycityjournals.com



Dan Petersen joined UFA as its new chief on Jan. 17. Petersen said he's hoping to bring a new level of transparency and leadership to Utah's largest fire agency. (Unified Fire Authority)

Six months after City Weekly reported on questionable bonuses and use of credit cards among top Unified Fire Authority officials, Utah's largest fire service has a new head. Dan Petersen, who started his full-time fire-fighting career in 1980, claimed his first day as UFA's Fire Chief on Jan. 17.

Petersen, who's been the fire chief, CEO and budget officer for Jackson County Fire District 3 for more than six years, holds a master's in management from Southern Oregon State University, a Bachelor of Science in fire administration from

Western Oregon State University and an Associate of Science in fire science from Rogue Community College.

His experience with wildland and urban interface fires and "proven track record of building trust" launched him to the top of the pool of more than 30 applications, according to Mike Watson, who was the interim chief after former chief Michael Jensen resigned.

"As I have explained to our employees, Chief Petersen is exactly what UFA needs," Watson said. "He is very people-

oriented and able to build sound relationships. He is confident in his abilities to lead UFA, and the ad hoc committee members were highly impressed with his leadership examples and abilities."

Petersen said he's not nervous to jump into UFA where state audits on former high-ups incentive pay and credit card spending recommend a criminal investigation into the misuse of funds by Jensen, former Deputy Chief Gaylord Scott and a couple other top UFA officials. Jensen and Gaylord spent more than \$50,000 on company credit cards and, along with two other top UFA officials, racked up more than \$100,000 each in total incentives from 2011 to 2015.

"I have already met with many of the staff about establishing leadership expectations and let them know that we won't be tolerating unethical behavior or anything in that vein," Petersen said. "We must do the right thing every time. The organization is ready for less drama and more action in the right area. I'll be reviewing the leadership organization and making sure leadership is there to support the firefighters who are doing that job every day to respond to your house and take care of your needs—that's where my work will be going."

While Petersen said he knows it may take awhile to gain public trust because of his predecessors, he said he's hoping to expedite that process by increasing public transparency of the budget.

"My goal, and that of our current finance director, is to let the public see how the money is spent and where it fits," he said.

Petersen took his first days in Utah to get to know the people he will be working with by scheduling meetings with all stations and staff—that's a total of more than 120 meetings. Petersen said it's important for he and the UFA firefighters to know each other.

"They are the ones performing service every day on the street and will give me a better view of what we need to do," Petersen

said. "The meetings will make sure we are all clear on the kind of leadership vision, mission and values fit what is best for the community, and from those discussions, we will generate a list of action items to tackle as a team."

The strong community feel at UFA and dedication of the firefighters is familiar to Petersen, he said, reminding him of his work at Fire District 3. That's one of the reasons he decided to apply for the position after taking a trip to Utah to visit.

Petersen said he wasn't looking for a new job but was slowly convinced by "a trusted recruiter" that it would be a good move. Job changes tend to happen unexpectedly, Petersen added, telling the story of how he chose to join the fire service.

While attending college, Petersen noticed that a student in his chemistry class responded to a pager. He approached the student about it and found out he was working as a volunteer firefighter and living rent-free at the fire station.

"I thought that was a pretty cool opportunity, so in 1979, I started living in the fire station while going to college," he said. "After a year of that, I realized this is what I wanted to do. I fell into it."

Petersen worked his way up from firefighter to engineer and then to captain before becoming a battalion chief, then deputy chief and finally a fire chief. After nearly 38 years in Southern Oregon's fire industry, Petersen fell into another opportunity—one at UFA.

The decision wasn't as easy, according to Petersen, but he said he feels like he made the right choice.

"My wife and I have taken this day by day," he said. "Our kids are out of the house, and I'm done being depressed about that, so we're ready for the next change. It will be an adventure, and I'm excited to experience Utah." +

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Recycling 101: best recycling practices

By Mandy Ditto | m.ditto@mycityjournals.com

For years, Salt Lake Valley residents have put out big, green bins to support recycling. However, there isn't a year that goes by where those residents find themselves unsure of exactly **what can be recycled**.

Why Recycling is Important

There are plenty of financial and environmental reasons to recycle, but some area experts say there are things residents should know in order to encourage them to recycle more efficiently.

"A lot of our landfills will sustain us for about 15 more years, and then we will either need to ship things out further or have transfer stations," said Dawn Beagley, who is in charge of business development at ACE Recycling and Disposal. "Or, we can keep all of the recyclables out of landfills and they will last a lot longer."

Besides the environmental impact on landfills, Beagley also believes recycling is simply the right thing to do.

"It's too bad we don't have kids or grandkids that could invent something using these recyclables to reuse a lot more stuff — that would be best," Beagley said. "I hate to see when someone throws a plastic bottle in the trash. I teach my kids at home, 'No, that's recyclable.' I just think it's very important."

Jennifer Meriwether, who handles business development for Rocky Mountain Recycling, sees recycling as real sustainability, "a good alternative, that also keeps people engaged and aware ... that is very important and necessary." Rocky Mountain Recycling helps with curbside service in the valley by having items picked up by ACE taken to RMR plant facility to go through for contamination and recycling.

Many Salt Lake Valley disposal companies want to use community engagement as a way to get people to see the good in recycling. Educating and getting kids involved is especially relevant and is something many parents are doing to show their kids how to make an impact in their community.

For Trena L., a Murray resident, recycling definitely feels like she's engaged and part of a community effort, she said.

"There's always that guilt that comes with it, if you don't do it, and you feel like you should probably be doing it more," she said. She puts her curbside bin out at least every other week. "But you are always aware of it and once you just do it, it becomes a habit."

What NOT to Recycle

Unfortunately, no matter how much residents are engaged in recycling, there is still misinformation and confusion about what can or cannot be recycled. And though many things can be recycled, it depends on whether the city — and the disposal

companies that service the city — has the resources to recycle every product, Beagley said.

"Because, right now, the recycling numbers are down the products are not worth as much as they use to be," Beagley said. "And with the recyclers, we are taking items to them that they don't want as much as they use to."

Currently, plastic foam and any cardboard with wax film are items that recyclers don't have any place for, and don't want in recycling. It has also become cheaper for companies to make new plastic bags, rather than recycle and reuse them. When plastic bags are put into curbside recycling bins and taken to the lots where recycled goods are sorted, they are doing what recyclers and disposal companies call contaminating.

An entire load may be deemed unrecyclable due to this contamination, unless it is sorted out in time. Plastic bags also frequently clog the recycling machines and local trucks that pick up curbside garbage, Meriwether said. Currently Rocky Mountain Recycling is trying to do a "bag ban" so that plastic bags can only be taken back to grocery stores to be recycled or reused, she said.

Contamination is the biggest issue for recyclers. Food waste that is in or on recyclable products, as well as clothing and plastic bags, are a few of the things that can also cause contamination, Beagley said.

"We want the recycling bins to be clean. Food waste is the worst. And with clothing, that is the wrong place to recycle it. There are other places for that," like donation centers, she said.

The worst culprit of contamination in curbside bins is glass, since it can break and spread through an entire load of recycling. Glass is a great thing to recycle and reuse, and there are glass drop-offs throughout the valley for it. Most glasses can be recycled, but it is necessary for glass to be taken to specific drop-offs, so that it doesn't affect other recyclables.

There are a few types of glass that cannot be recycled, and those include ceramic, mirrored glass and light bulbs, all of which have problematic contaminants to get out once a load of glass is melted together.

Pyrex products, such as pie plates, are also contaminants. The rule to live by with that type of glass can be recycled is: "basically if you can put it in your oven, it can't be recycled," noted John Lair, president and CEO of Momentum Recycling, a glass recycling company in Utah and Colorado.

For a more comprehensive list of what cannot be recycled by ACE Disposal, which services in the Salt Lake Valley, go to: www.acedisposal.com/index.php/recycling-disposal-for-your-home/residential-recycling.

What TO Recycle

Luckily, many items people use on a daily basis can be recycled.

"Glass is a low-hanging fruit: it's easy material to identify, glass is always recyclable besides the few we listed and everyone can do it," Lair said.

Glass can also be reused playing another part in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle cycle.

"Glass is 100 percent recyclable. You can make a new container with glass that you can't do with other (materials)," Lair said. "If you are shopping based on your sustainability preferences, glass is your best packing choice. I really encourage people to embrace glass and close the loop and make sure to recycle glass locally."

When it comes to plastics, papers and metals that can be recycled, there are many options and are not as limited as many may think.

"A lot of people, they think they can't put a lot of things in the recycling bin, so they put it in the garbage...it's actually a lot easier than people think," Meriwether said. "People think they have to go through a big process, sorting them and all and they don't necessarily have to do that."

Below are household items that can be recycled:

- Paper: office, note
- Brochures, catalogues
- Newspaper
- Wrapping paper
- Cardboard (flattened or cut)
- Envelopes
- Paper egg cartons
- Plastic containers #1-7
- Washed out milk, juice, water jugs & bottles
- Washed out laundry jugs and bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Tin cans
- Clean aluminum foil
- Aluminum disposable pans and plates

For a more comprehensive list of recyclable items, visit: www.acedisposal.com/index.php/recycling-disposal-for-your-home/residential-recycling.

Lair sees recycling as important for the entire community, and not just for environmental concerns.

"It's good for the local economy: it creates jobs, giving sustainable, long-term employment. Like ours, most are small businesses, which is very good for the community in many ways," Lair said. "I would encourage people to get involved...and in the long run, help us conserve our limited, dwindling recycled materials. Whether it's products or packaging, it doesn't have to be dug from the earth; it extends longevity of natural resources, it's the smart thing to do, and not just environmentally." ✦

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Guests at Taylorsville City's only motel could face a new tax

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

If you happened to be one of those who traveled to the Utah or BYU football bowl games in December—and stayed at a motel or hotel—“Consumer Reports” shows, you paid a hefty transient tax—12.5 percent in San Diego or 15.5 percent in San Francisco.

Houston (17 percent) and Chicago (16.4) charge their vacationers and business visitors even more. But those, of course, are high-profile tourist cities where a big chunk of tax revenue is generated by those who won't be staying.

That's not the case in Taylorsville; you won't find a bowl game there. But you also won't pay a transient tax, at the city's one-and-only motel. At least not yet.

At a recent city council meeting, Taylorsville City Attorney Tracy Cowdell reported a modest transient tax might soon be needed.

“We've observed a recent police call increase, and it may become necessary to impose a 1 percent transient tax to help cover those expenses,” Cowdell told the council at its Dec. 14 meeting.

Crossland Economy Studios—at 5683 South Redwood Road, just east of the Utah Department of Workforce Services office—is Taylorsville City's only motel. Several websites list rooms there for \$70. The motel is one of more

than a thousand owned by a group outside Utah.

The motel is nearly impossible to see from Redwood Road, and most residents may not even know it's there.

But the Unified Police Department Taylorsville Precinct certainly does.

“My department isn't advocating a new tax,” Precinct Chief Tracy Wyant said. “But it's true, we have been seeing more police calls—for domestic violence, narcotics and other problems—to the motel.”

City Attorney Cowdell told the council a nominal 1 percent tax would generate about \$12,000 to \$13,000 each year.

“If a new tax were created, the motel would collect it from people checking in, the State Tax Commission would collect it, and then pay it back to the city,” Cowdell said. “Our local taxpayers would not be impacted.”

But Wyant says there has been improvement in recent weeks. “Representatives of the motel have flown in to talk with us about the problem,” he said. “We have asked them to make a few changes, and they are working to do that now.”

Police and the city attorney have asked Crossland Economy Studios to:

Tow abandoned cars

Increase security (with cameras and

personnel)

Prohibit long-term residency

Report loitering or other suspicious activity
“I feel good about the discussions we've had so far,” Chief Wyant added. “We just want to make sure city taxpayers aren't forced to pay a disproportionate amount of tax to cover emergency response there.”

Cowdell also said the proposed tax has nothing to do with those Taylorsville residents who are attempting, illegally, to rent rooms through “airbnb.com” and other popular websites.

“If the city council did establish a new transient tax, it would not apply to private homeowners renting rooms, because that is already against city code, without proper licensing,” he said.

Taylorsville City Council members asked Cowdell and Wyant to each continue monitoring progress being made at Crossland Economy Studios. But so far, they are not inclined to pursue a change to the municipal code, establishing the new transient tax.

“My appearance before the council was simply a first reading,” Cowdell said. “If the motel owners remain responsive to what the city and our police department are trying to accomplish, the tax may not be necessary at all.” †



Taylorsville City is working to see a reduction in motel guest crime at Crossland Economy Studios. (Carl Fauver/City Journals)

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Heavier snowfall causing headaches for Taylorsville drivers and snowplow crews

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

Zach Heiner had a late Christmas with his wife this winter. The Heiners don't have children yet, so little ones weren't pestering to see what Santa brought at 5 a.m. And that's a good thing.

Heiner is one of the many Salt Lake County snowplow drivers who removed the frosty precipitation that the rest of us were dreaming about—the "White Christmas" snow.

"I drove my plow from about 1:50 Christmas morning to 1:30 that afternoon," Heiner said. "I figured it was OK to work the holiday because it was helping other people to get around to enjoy their Christmas. It just delayed my wife and me from opening our gifts a little bit."

Heiner also worked an 11-hour snowplow shift on New Year's Day.

At its Jan. 11 meeting, the Taylorsville City Council heard a positive update from Salt Lake County Public Works Operations Director Kevyn Smeltzer. He said Heiner wasn't alone.

"I have a very dedicated staff," Seltzer said. "We had 64 of our 70 snowplow drivers working 12-hour shifts on Christmas Day."

Smeltzer told council members his staff's biggest challenge continues to be vehicles parked curbside. "Sometimes our drivers have to completely bypass neighborhood streets if cars are parked on both sides," he said. "They crank their (snowplow) blades as sharply as they can to fit through. But if they're concerned about hitting a car, they have to skip the street and check back later to see if the cars have been moved."

Public works personnel say this is particularly a problem on narrower cul-de-sac roads, or those with larger vehicles parked curbside.



Salt Lake County snowplow drivers have been unusually busy this winter. (Carl Fauver/City Journals)

It is illegal, year-round, to leave vehicles parked along a curb for more than 24 consecutive hours in Taylorsville. And during the winter (November through April) it's illegal to leave them on the curb overnight.

"We've had to tow more vehicles this winter than ever before," City Administrator John Taylor told the Taylorsville Council. "And people have also learned how to play the '24-hour game.' They will simply drive around the block and park in a slightly different position to avoid a citation."

Taylor told the council he does not believe the city ordinance needs to be changed at this time. But it will continue to be enforced. Snow removal from sidewalks is another annual challenge.

Residents are required to shovel sidewalks and access to mail boxes. Taylor added, "We have not yet issued any citations to residents for not clearing sidewalks. But we may have to look at that, if it continues to be neglected."

Council members also suggested city staff compile an email list of all Taylorsville businesses that have sidewalks, so they can be sent reminders to shovel them after heavy snowstorms.

Smeltzer said his crews will continue to work 12- to 16-hour snowplow shifts when heavy storms hit. He says neighborhood streets often require at least two passes. "In heavy snow, our trucks normally go through once each direction to clear a critical access path," he said. "Then they will return later to push the snow all the way to the curb."

Major thoroughfares can require several snowplow passes, sometimes by different agencies. For instance, on 2700 West, Taylorsville and West Valley City split the snowplow duties, with West Valley working the west side of the road, and Taylorsville the east.

Then from 4700 to 5400 South, on the same street, Taylorsville is responsible for both sides.

"We would just like to remind drivers and residents to be patient," Smeltzer added. "Our crews are working long shifts, and if you are courteous with them, it will make getting the job done that much easier and more efficient."

After all, did you have to wait until after 1:30 p.m. to open your Christmas gifts like Zach and his wife?

The Salt Lake County Public Works Department also operates a 24-hour snowplow hotline for residents to report streets that have not been plowed. That number is 385-468-6101. ✦

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HOMES

City council opens door for new townhouse development

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

A unanimous vote from the Taylorsville City Council at its Jan. 11 meeting has cleared the way for 7.1 acres in the southeast corner of the city to be transformed over the next 18 months.

With none of the controversy and debate often associated with zoning change requests, the council quickly gave the greenlight to developer Ken Olsen and builder Brad Reynolds to move forward on a plan to construct 63 units near 1300 West 6600 South.

“City staff have been great to work with on this project,” Reynolds said. “They’ve been very accommodating in reviewing our plans and concepts. I’m confident people will like it.”

The Taylorsville City Planning Commission recommended the zoning change with three conditions:

- Each townhouse unit must be at least 1,600 square feet
- The structures can be no more than 2 stories high
- There can be no more than 11.5 units per net acre

Buyer and developer Olsen is particularly excited about the project, because the acreage is near and dear to his heart.

“I grew up about a half-mile from this property, and one of my best childhood friends lived in a home right next to it,” Olsen told council members. “Although I’ve done (development) projects in several areas throughout the (Salt Lake) valley, this is the first time I’ve done something in Taylorsville.”

Olsen is purchasing the land from two separate families. One of the owners—Clinton Michaelson, 90—said his part of the deal includes ownership of one of the townhouse units.

Speaking on the porch of his home—which will be torn down for the project—Michaelson said, “I built this place with



Developers plan to break ground this spring on 63 townhouse units in southeast Taylorsville. (Carl Fauver/City Journals)

my own two hands, more than 50 years ago. Change is never easy, but I do like the (construction) plans. I also look forward to having less land to maintain.”

Reynolds said each townhouse structure will feature three to five units.

“The units will have two-car garages, granite countertops and two-toned exterior paint,” he added. “They will be marketed separately and not available as rentals.”

The new project is in the extreme southeast corner of

Taylorsville city, with Murray on the other side of 1300 West and West Jordan directly to the south. The adjacent properties in each of those cities already feature multi-family housing.

The new townhouses are expected to sell for \$240,000 to \$325,000. Construction is scheduled to begin by June 1, with the first units ready to occupy within 90 days.

The 7-plus acres now feature just a couple of houses along with agricultural buildings and a few animals.

“We hosted an information meeting for adjacent property owners, and they all seemed to be pretty pleased with our plans,” Olsen added.

Unlike many requests for zoning changes, not a single person appeared before the Taylorsville City Council to oppose the project.

Once the townhouses are occupied, they will generate much more property tax for the city than the land does currently. Additionally, the yearlong construction will provide many jobs.

“Most of my construction work is completed by subcontractors,” Reynolds said. “I employ about 300 of them and am very pleased with their quality of work.”

Many of the townhouses will enjoy views across the entire Salt Lake Valley.

The nearly 80-year-old quote, “You can’t go home again” is attributed to author Thomas Wolfe. But Olsen isn’t buying it.

“I used to have many sleepovers at my friend’s house next to this property 45 years ago,” he said. “I’m proud to be involved in a project that gives this acreage a valuable new use.” †

Eisenhower generals earn stars

By Jet Burnham | j.burnham@mycityjournals.com

Eisenhower Junior High “Generals” earn stars to participate in end-of-quarter activities.

“Teachers are always looking for students who need a little push to the next level,” said Melody Garcia, a teacher at Eisenhower.

The Five Star Generals program rewards students for having good grades and attendance.

Principal Mark Ellermeier said the program is a combination of incentive to do better and reward for those who are already doing well.

“We want to reward students who are getting good grades and are doing what they are supposed to be doing,” he said.

The last day of each quarter, students reap the rewards from the stars they’ve earned.

“The higher the GPA, the bigger the reward,” said Ellermeier.

The Breakdown for earning stars is:

- 1 Star 1.99–2.0 GPA
- 2 Star 2.49–2.5 GPA
- 3 Star 3.499–3.5 GPA
- 4 Star 3.999–4.0 GPA
- 5 Star 4.0 GPA

In addition, students can earn a Silver Star. For this, they must earn a .5 increase over the previous quarter’s GPA or have a 4.0 GPA held for more than one quarter. Those who earn a Silver Star are recognized in front of their classmates. About 150 students each quarter earn a silver star and receive a treat during class.

Desiree Cann, an eighth-grade student, doesn’t ever want to be on the One Star level.

“They don’t get to do anything fun. It is just a regular day in class for them,” Desiree said, who earned three stars.



Eisenhower Junior High’s administration posts students’ progress toward earning rewards on a bulletin board at the school. (Jet Burnham/City Journals)

“I’m trying to turn in all my missing assignments and be good in class.”

Two Star students receive a small treat in class such as donuts or candy.

Three Star students get out of class to watch a movie in the auditorium.

Garcia says it’s good that these kids get rewarded.

“The kids with 2.5s are doing what they’re supposed to be doing,” she said. “They are coming on time, excusing their absences and doing what the teachers ask.”

Katie Rossetta is a seventh-grader who earned three stars last quarter. She says the movie offered as the reward was one she’d

already seen, but it was still good to get out of class. Katie plans to try harder to earn four stars next quarter.

Being a Four Star student is a great goal because Four Star students get to leave campus for their reward. For the first quarter, they go see a first-run movie at the Cineplex Theater at Valley Fair Mall. Second quarter, they go ice skating. Third quarter is a bowling day at Fat Cats. Students pay the cost for the outing, and the school pays for the buses that take them there.

However, if a student earns five stars, they get to participate in the activity at a reduced price. For example, Four Star students pay \$5 to see the movie, while Five Star students only pay \$3.

Eighth-grader Ernesto Jimenez believes if students don’t achieve the GPA they are striving for, they can keep trying. He explained what it took for him to earn his Four Stars.

“Follow directions, listen to the teacher,” he said. “They ask you to do it, and you think it’s too hard, but if you think about it and try—it’s really not.”

Former Vice Principal Donna Harris said the incentive program to recognize more than just the top students. Garcia, who has taught at Eisenhower for 16 years, explained they used to only reward students with a GPA of 3.75 or higher and even then, the reward was just an ice cream sandwich. Garcia was glad when Harris started the new program over ten years ago.

“These kids want to do better,” said Garcia. They get excited when star levels are posted on a bulletin board outside the main office.

Ellermeier said the program helps kids focus on good grades. They are motivated by the rewards.

“Anytime I can reward students—I’m all about that,” he said. †



Emergency

Emergency	911
Unified Police Department Dispatch	801-743-7000
<i>(Non-Emergencies)</i>	
Fire Department	801-743-7200
Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222

Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control Shelter	801 -965 -5800
Animal Control After Hours Dispatch	801 -840 -4000
Building Inspection	801 -955 -2030
Chamber West <i>(Chamber of Commerce)</i>	801 -977 -8755
Gang Tip Line	385 -468 -9768
Garbage/Recycle/GreenWaste Pick-up <i>(Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling)</i>	385 -468 -6325
Granite School District	385 -646 -5000
Health Department	385 -468 -4100
Highway Conditions <i>(from cell phone)</i>	511
Park Reservations	385 -468 -7275
Public Works <i>(Salt Lake County)</i>	385 -468 -6101
Questar	801 -324 -5000
Rocky Mountain Power	888 -221 -7070
Salt Lake County Recycling/Landfill	801 -974 -6920
Taylorsville - Bennion Imp. District	801 -968 -9081
Taylorsville Food Pantry	801 -815 -0003
Taylorsville Senior Center	801 -293 -8340
Taylorsville Neighborhood Compliance	801 -955 -2013
Taylorsville Justice Court	801 -963 -0268
Taylorsville Library	801 -943 -4636
Taylorsville Recreation Center	385 -468 -1732
Swimming Pool <i>(Memorial Day to Labor Day)</i>	801 -967 -5006
Taylorsville -Bennion Heritage Center	801 -281 -0631
UDOT Region 2	801 -975 -4900
Utah Transit Authority (UTA)	801 -743 -3882

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor
Larry Johnson

February is a great month, February 14th is Valentine's Day, what a great day to show love, thanks, and appreciation, to family members, friends, and neighbors. February 15th is Presidents Day, a holiday to honor George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. I would like to share a few quotes from Abraham Lincoln:

Source: www.brainyquote.com

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

"Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm."

"I am a slow walker, but I never walk back."

"I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

"Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."

"Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition."

"My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure."

"Everybody likes a compliment."

"If there is anything that a man can do well, I say let him do it. Give him a chance."

"I will prepare, and someday my chance will come."

"Common looking people are the best in the world: that is the reason the Lord makes so many of them."

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him."

"With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed."

"Gold is good in its place; but loving, brave, patriotic men are better than gold."
—Abraham Lincoln

As Mayor of this great city, I am grateful and appreciative to all of you for your support. I am excited to let you know, of some good news. Pizza Studio is the newest addition to Legacy Plaza at 54th, celebrating with a Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening on January 9th.

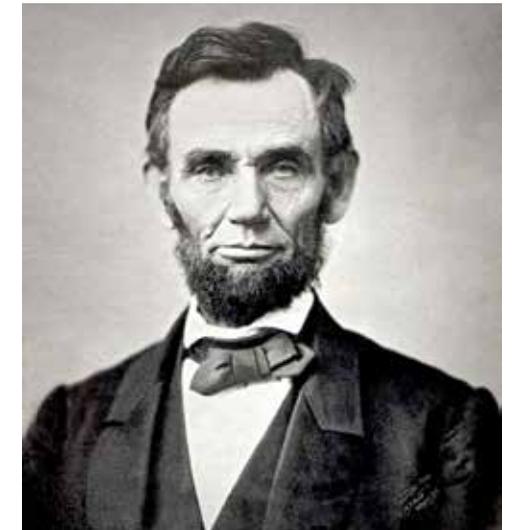
Siragusa's Restaurant celebrated their recent remodel and expansion with a Ribbon Cutting on January 12th.

The new Taylorsville Plymouth Fire Station 117 will open on March 7th.

Regal Cinemas announced the grand opening date of March 17th.

Hope you all have a great Valentine's Day and a wonderful and safe February.

—Mayor Johnson



MAYOR'S CHOICE

RESTAURANT

Pizza Studio

5372 South Redwood Road • Taylorsville, Utah 84129

Phone: (801) 904-2587 • www.pizzastudio.com

Favorite Pizza – THE BEAST

Monday - Saturday 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Sunday - CLOSED



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Monday - Saturday 9 AM – 6 PM • Sunday 11 AM – 5 PM

COUNCIL CORNER

In 2016, the City saw a new movie theater rising (opening spring 2017), many new restaurants open, lots of new construction, new businesses, a new fire station approaching completion (opening spring 2017) and the announcement of Salt Lake County operated Arts Center (groundbreaking in 2018). These are all very exciting for Taylorsville. The Council, Administration, and Staff have been working for years on these projects, but we recognize the City has many more needs and we are excited for the opportunities before us.

As we plan for the future, the City Council

will be holding work sessions over the next few months outlining a "State of the City" in order to aid us in planning and prioritizing future projects in the City including, park improvements, streetscape beautification, public safety, storm drain system improvements, and many others. We invite you to attend and to contact your Council Representatives with your ideas and desires as we begin this process.

Each Council Member's phone number and email address are on the City's website at: www.taylorsvilleut.gov/government/elected/council and their email addresses are listed below:



Council Chairman

Brad Christopherson – District #3
bchristopherson@taylorsvilleut.gov

Council Member

Dama Barbour – District #4
dbarbour@taylorsvilleut.gov

Council Member

Ernest Burgess – District #1
eburgess@taylorsvilleut.gov

Council Member

Kristie Overson – District #2
koverson@taylorsvilleut.gov

Council Vice-Chair

Dan Armstrong – District #5
darmstrong@taylorsvilleut.gov

YOUTH COUNCIL CORNER

By: Cole Arnold, Youth Council Mayor

In the month of January, the Taylorsville Youth Council kept the ball rolling after a busy December with another busy month. They started off January with discussion and preparation for the upcoming trip to Utah State University for a Youth Council leadership conference. They also participated in the annual "Local Officials Day at the Legislature." This event is designed to give Youth Council members a better understanding of the local government process. They attended lectures given by motivational speakers to learn more about leadership and also participated in a mock debate on a current bill up for consideration. The bill is about requiring mandatory drug testing in high schools. The week before attending this event, the Youth Council had a mock debate of their own.

The Youth Council also had the opportunity to job shadow an elected official or a City employee and learn more about the responsibilities that they hold. We would like to thank all of the officials and employees who helped and allowed us to job shadow them; it was greatly enjoyed! The Youth Council enjoyed their many chances this month to learn more about City government, how it operates, and how they could learn to be a part of it.



Welcome to Taylorsville, Pizza Studio!



Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting - January 9, 2017

City Officials, ChamberWest, Youth Ambassadors and Community Members participated in a Ribbon Cutting to welcome Pizza Studio to Taylorsville and celebrate their Grand Opening! Pizza Studio is the newest addition to Legacy Plaza at 54th and is located at 5372 South Redwood Road. The menu offering includes signature & create your own pizza & salad. Pizza Studio is open Monday - Saturday from 11 AM - 10 PM and Closed on Sunday.

Check out their menu at www.pizzastudio.com

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS FOR TAYLORSVILLE RESIDENTS



Traveling, even short distances, during the winter months in Utah can be stressful. Snow and Ice can cause delays and be very dangerous. Salt Lake County Public Works Operations is committed to providing safe, well-maintained roadway systems for the benefit of the public.

Our snow teams are prepared 24 hours a day in the event of a storm. Major arterial streets are the first priority to make passable and provide access to schools, hospitals, fire stations, police and other emergency services. Depending on the size of the storm, teams may need to continually plow these roads, which may delay residential road clearing. After the snow event has ended snow teams will return to residential streets to push the snow back to the curb or edge of the road. This often causes additional snow in driveways. We make every effort to clear all roads within 48 hours after the storm ends. When the temperatures dropping below 17 degrees the salt used on the road is less effective. The melt rate slows and the snow & ice may take days to completely melt. Drivers need to exercise extreme caution.

It is important for residents to understand what they can do to ensure the roads and sidewalks are safe and passable. Sidewalks and mailboxes are the responsibility of the resident to keep clear. We recommend the sidewalk be cleared after the plows have serviced the area.

Snow team members have been instructed not to clear roads with cars parked on them. Residents may call their local code enforcement or police department to assist with the removal of the cars to enable the plows access to the area. When clearing your driveways and sidewalks, the snow should not be deposited in the road. Garbage cans should be set at the curb in the morning and removed promptly. Snow removal team members are working 12-16 hour shifts and appreciate courteous and friendly drivers. Please use caution when you see a snow removal vehicle and remember the snow removal vehicle is harder to stop than a regular vehicle.

For questions on concerns, please contact us at (385) 468-6101.



City of Taylorsville Parking Reminder

- No Overnight Winter Parking (November - April) for Snow Removal 11.20.130
- No Parking for more than 24 Consecutive Hours 11.20.135
- No Large Truck or Trailer Parking in Residential Area for more than three consecutive hours 11.20.060
- No Parking for Repairs, Maintenance, or to Display for Sale 11.20.140

CITY OF TAYLORSVILLE NOTICE OF 2017 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The City of Taylorsville will hold a Municipal Election on November 7, 2017 to elect a Mayor and two City Council Members (one from Council District 4 and one from Council District 5) to serve four-year terms.

The filing period will run from Thursday, June 1, 2017 through Wednesday, June 7, 2017 during regular City Hall hours (Weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Candidates must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" form in person with the Taylorsville City Recorder, at Taylorsville City Hall, 2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Taylorsville, Utah, during the filing period. Declaration of Candidacy forms will be available in the Recorder's Office or on the City website at www.taylorsvilleut.gov.

A candidate must have been a resident of the City of Taylorsville for at least 12 consecutive months (365 days) immediately prior to the date of the General Election. A candidate must also be a registered voter. A candidate running for a Council District Seat must be a resident of that district. A filing fee of \$100.00 must be paid at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy. The filing fee will be reduced to \$50 for candidates who submit a nomination petition containing 25 signatures of residents of the city who are at least 18 years old. For additional information, please visit the City's website at www.taylorsvilleut.gov or contact City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle at 801-963-5400.



Fleas and Your Pet

By David Moss
Animal Services Director

Spring is coming. With the warmer spring temperatures comes the most frequent pet care concern in America – fleas. Fleas are the most common external parasite to plague pets. Fleas are wingless insects that feed on blood, can jump two feet high and are persistent in the environment.

As with most every other type of health concern, prevention is the best defense against these parasites. However, it is important to recognize the signs and symptoms in case your pet does need your help in this area.

FLEA PREVENTION

- Use a flea comb on your pet frequently
- Wash your pet's bedding once a week
- Keep the outside of your home free of organic debris such as lawn clippings and leaves
- Use a prescription or over-the-counter flea prevention product

FLEA SYMPTOMS

- Droppings or "flea dirt" in the pet's coat (dark "grains of sand")
- Flea eggs (tiny, white grains)
- Excessive scratching, licking or biting at skin
- Itchy irritated skin • Hair loss • Scabs or hot spots
- Pale gums • Tapeworms

FLEA TREATMENT

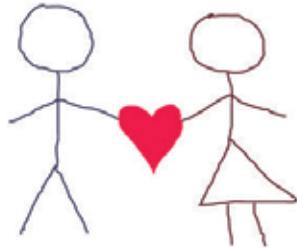
As with most health concerns, consulting a veterinarian is recommended. The treatment plan for fleas may include the following:

- Oral medicine
- Topical treatments like shampoos, sprays or powders
- Through cleaning of all areas the pet frequents like bedding, rugs, upholstery, etc.
- Treating any other pets you may have too.

Doing these simple things, being aware and taking action quickly if needed will help you and your pets have a fun and healthy spring and start to a new year.



Come join the Taylorsville Arts Council & Taylorsville Senior Center for a
Celebration of "Friendship & Love"
 through music and song



February 10th & 11th at 7:00 p.m.
Taylorsville Senior Center
4743 Plymouth View Drive



Taylorsville Bennion Heritage REMEMBRANCES

This month's remembrances of Taylorsville are taken from a history written by Beulah B. Eyre who originally submitted the article to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers in 1970.

By Beulah B. Eyre

In writing a history of some of our early pioneer industries and of the people who started and supervised them, we must put the Hyrum Bennion and Son Co., on the list.

This was not only one industry...it was three! A grist mill, a mercantile co-op, and an electric power company. The owner and manager of this company was Hyrum Bennion, a pioneer of 1847.

In 1880, Hyrum Bennion and his father Samuel Bennion and his cousin, Samuel R. Bennion, formed a partnership and purchased from Archibald Gardner, the pioneer mill builder, a water powered burr mill located on the Jordan River where 4800 South crosses the river. It was a lumber building constructed on piles driven into the ground on the banks of the Jordan. Power to run the mill came from the water in the mill race.

In 1881, the same three Bennions organized a mercantile business known as the Taylorsville Co-Op. Upon the death of his father Samuel, Hyrum purchased all his interests in the mill.

In 1891, the mill was enlarged and a new system of machinery installed. Many Taylorsville residents were employed there along with Hyrum's sons.

In 1908, the mill on the river burned down and was completely destroyed. The mill was full of wheat purchased from the farmers. A Mr. Call was working at the mill during the time of the fire, and he helped get the books and records out safely. The last thing they were able to save was a scale which was used in the new mill.

In the meantime, Hyrum and his sons built a new mill on the railroad tracks at Murray, Utah, doubling the capacity. An electric power plant was installed at the site of the old mill and they installed an electric line to the Murray mill and also west through Taylorsville and Granger. This furnished the community with its first electric power and light. Archibald Frame was the contractor that built the new mill/power plant. All the concrete was mixed by hand. Wages were \$175. & \$2.50 per day!

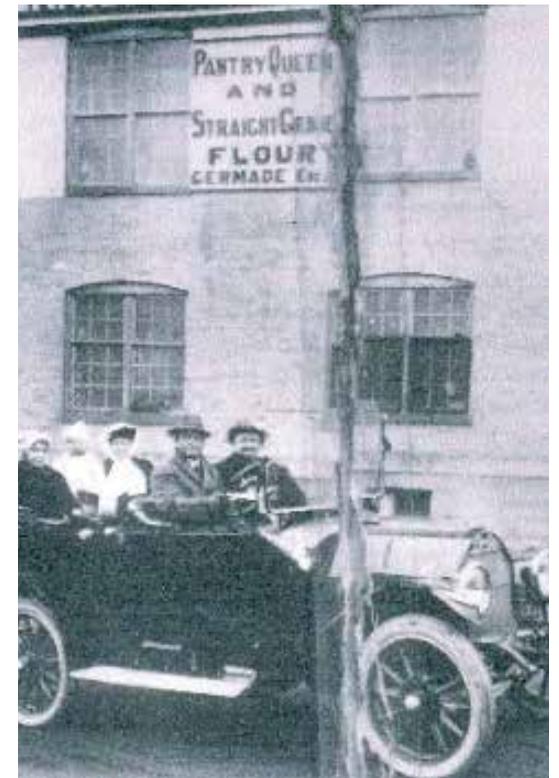
To get water to run the power plant for the mill, a mill race was built bringing water from the Jordan River at about 5400 South. Water in the mill race was also used for irrigation in the Taylorsville area. In the late summer and fall when water was low in Utah Lake, they would have to make a dam in the river so enough water could be diverted into the mill race. About twice a year, this mill race would have to be cleaned out. They would shut down the mill and power plant and all employees and all others who wanted work would spend a few days working on the 'race'. The banks were cut back and the debris removed, such as fallen trees, dead animals, weeds and moss.

In 1912, a warehouse was added to the Murray mill and in 1916, a 50,000 bushel capacity wheat storage elevator was erected. Farmers would bring a 'grist' to the mill and would receive flour, bran and shorts, for their grain.

The Bennion name was on all the flour sacks. There was a big red and blue "B" printed on the sacks. The brand names given the flour were "Pantry Queen", "High Patent" and "Straight Grade."

Many a youngster has had underwear made from "Big B" flour sacks and the sheets for many a bed.

(NOTE: This article contains two more pages so if you have the desire to finish the story, come by the Taylorsville Bennion Heritage Center on Tues. morning, Wed, Evening, or Sat. 2-4 p.m. and learn the REST OF THE STORY!)



Detecting A Health Risk in Your Home



Check your home for Radon Today!



Have you heard of the silent killer called Radon? Radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the state of Utah. Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible and odorless gas that can enter homes through cracks in the basement floor or from well water. As modern homes have become better insulated, radon gas levels have become more concentrated and therefore a greater risk to our health.

What can citizens do about this invisible problem? The EPA recommends conducting a short-term radon test by placing an easy to use kit in your home. The Taylorsville City Council has authorized the Public Safety Committee to spearhead a radon testing program in the city. For a limited time, radon test kits will be offered to Taylorsville residents at half price. The price of the test kit includes: the test kit, shipping to the lab, lab analysis and test results sent to your home. For more information visit the City of Taylorsville website at www.taylorsvilleut.gov

**Purchase your half-price kit today at Taylorsville City Hall
 2nd Floor West Side Reception Area**

Taylorsville
City Arts
Council
Hosted



ART Intake

2/7 Tuesday 2 PM-7:00 PM

2/8 Wednesday 2 PM-7:00 PM

**All hanging art must be framed*

2017 TAYLORSVILLE ART SHOW



ART SHOWING

Friday, February 10th from 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Saturday, February 11th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Awards Presented Saturday, February 11th at 3:00 PM

Taylorsville Senior Center - 4743 Plymouth View Dr.

(east of the skateboard park)

FREE ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

Art Entry Applications available at www.taylorsvilleut.gov

Contact: Howard Wilson hwilson48@me.com



The Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee (LARP) Committee presented the 2016 Holiday Outdoor Decor Contest Awards to the following recipients in the February 1, 2017, City Council Meeting.



#1 - Roger and Clara Kehl
5068 South Jordan Canal Road



#2 - Dale and Sharron Kehl
5050 South Jordan Canal Road



#3 - David and Gail Harkness
1515 West Culpper Circle



Honorable Mention - Robert and Dixie Swiatocha
5868 South Sierra Grande Drive

Congratulations, and thank you to everyone who entered!

How Do You Want Your Neighborhood To Look?

Tell us how we should balance the design of neighborhoods with increasingly less available water and personal choice? Come to our open house to weigh-in and give us your feedback.



What: Public Meeting

When: February 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Taylorville City Hall,
2600 West Taylorville Blvd

For questions or comments, please contact Matthew Taylor, Senior Planner, at mtaylor@taylorvilleut.gov

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www.taylorvilleut.gov

Buyer Beware

Buyer Beware is time proven phrase that is just as applicable today as ever. We encourage our customers to be cautious when hiring contractors to do work on your property. This is particularly important when it comes to having your water and wastewater service lines repaired or replaced. Consider the following:



- Price and quality of work can vary dramatically.
- Three comparable estimates of the work to be complete is a good place to start.
- Asking for references of people in your area that you can contact to verify quality of work.
- Check that the Contractor is licensed and insured.

Customers have also reported receiving phone calls from unknown individuals requesting payment of water bills. If a caller claims to be calling for payment of your water bill they are actually crooks looking for a quick payoff. Taylorsville-Bennion Improvement District will not contact our customers by phone for payment.

If you have any questions regarding this article please contact Dan McDougal, Communications Manager, at Taylorsville-Bennion Improvement District: 801-968-9081 / danmcdougal@tbid.org or visit our website at www.tbid.org



Taylorsville Dayzz

June 22, 23 & 24

Gary C. Swenson Valley Regional Park
5100 South 2700 West

2017 Performance Applications
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FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

The Taylorsville Leisure Activities Recreation & Parks (L.A.R.P) Committee is planning a Fall Festival on October 14, 2017 at Taylorsville Park, 4751 South Plymouth View Dr.

They are seeking beverage vendors to serve warm beverages (coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and apple cider) and cold sodas. They are also seeking food vendors to serve veggies on a stick, hot dogs, caramel popcorn and caramel apples and other fall food type items. Vendors interested can contact the LARP Committee at larp@taylorsvilleut.gov



Are you looking for an opportunity to get participate, and get involved? Do you want to share your time and talents to build our community?

The Taylorsville Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks (L.A.R.P) Committee is seeking new members at this time. We are looking for volunteers to meet monthly and participate in our planned activities that include:

- Beautification awards for the best-kept yards/landscaping, Halloween Outdoor Décor, Holiday Outdoor Décor.
- The Remember Me Rose Garden
- A Fall Festival that we are planning for October 14, 2017, at Taylorsville Park located at 4751 South Plymouth View Drive

The activities we are planning for our Fall Festival include a Halloween Costume Parade for children, adults, and dogs. In addition to music, a movie in the park (Halloween Theme), share the harvest, and a pumpkin carving contest.

Residents interested in serving on the Taylorsville Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks (L.A.R.P) Committee are invited to submit a volunteer application located on the City of Taylorsville website at <http://www.taylorsvilleut.gov/file/2016/12/Volunteer-Application-Master.pdf> or call the City Offices for additional information at (801) 963-5400.



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Siragusa's Taste of Italy in Taylorsville Celebrates Update & Expansion



Update & Expansion Ribbon Cutting - January 12, 2017

City Officials, ChamberWest, and Community Members participated in a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the update & expansion of Siragusa's Taste of Italy Restaurant in Taylorsville! Siragusa's offers Dine In, Take Out, Catering & Delivery. The addition includes a Banquet room that seats up to 100 guests. Siragusa's is located at 4115 South Redwood Road in Taylorsville. The menu offers Old School Chicago Style Italian-American appetizers, entrees and desserts.

Check out their website at www.siragusas.com

Students sing telegrams, buy gifts for charity

By Jet Burnham | j.burnham@mycityjournals.com



Student government performs singing telegrams to raise money for the school's fundraiser. (Lisa Wells/ Bennion Junior High)

Students at Bennion Junior High stood in several lines during a recent lunch period to spend money for people in need. Charity Week, run by the student government officers, cheerleaders, Peer Leadership Team members and advisers Hailey Newton and Pamela Hunter, took place for one week in December.

Several tables around the lunch room provided students with choices of what to buy: roses, candy, cookies and singing telegrams—with all money earned going to pay for a sub-for-Santa project.

Seventh-grader Truman Owen said he liked buying items to give to his friends and getting treats from them in return. He especially liked the big frosted sugar cookies. Those were the most popular item sold, according to Newton. She cleaned several retailers out of the pink cookies to restock throughout the week.

Another popular item was the singing telegram. Students had several carols to choose from, with lyrics about friendship or love written to familiar Christmas tunes. Taya Shaw, a seventh-grader, spent \$2 on a singing telegram for her best friend, Emily. Members of student government performed the songs for the recipients and their entire eighth period classes.

"They do a little dancing and sing in the most embarrassing way possible," said Taya.

There were about 70 students involved in running Charity Week. Some, like Shamrah Swindlehorst, who has been in student government all her three years at Bennion, had worked Charity Week before. For others, like Hunter Smith, it was their first one. The students rotated shifts so that they didn't miss more than one or two classes.

"Everybody enjoys doing it. We love to help to give to charity," said Marcus Newton, a ninth-grade officer.

"The money that we earn from Charity Week, we use it to buy gifts for kids who aren't going to get a Christmas," explained ninth-grader McKay Cherry.

New this year was an improved system for

collecting money. Marcus and his friend Ian Oliver developed a punch-card system one day into the demanding week. They figured the money was going to the same account in the end and collecting cash at five different tables was more complicated than it needed to be. The punch card option simplified the cash transactions to a single table.

Once the money was collected, student government and PLT students paired up to purchase gifts. The charity provided a list of needs and wants for individuals. Hailey Newton believes this activity gives her students an opportunity to appreciate what they have. They are often surprised when they see what people ask for, especially children. It widens their perspective of the world, she said.

Hunter, the PLT adviser, said through this activity students get a chance to consider what other people value. It is a chance for these teenagers to look outside themselves. She said it's touching to see these popular and macho teenage boys getting excited about picking out cute little girl toys and outfits.

After shopping, the students wrapped and delivered the gifts.

"We have bags and bags for those without an opportunity to have a Christmas," said Newton. "It impacts these guys and spreads through the school. A lot of good is done."

Charity Week is not the PLT's biggest activity of the year, but Hunter said it's definitely one of their favorites.

"They like service," she said.

In the week leading up to Charity Week, there was a daily reminder for students to gather their money. Student government officers also made two YouTube videos to get the school excited about the project.

Marcus said the project was successful because the students were very supportive in spending their money to buy the items for sale.

"I think a lot of them know what it's for, but on top of that, they really enjoy the treats," he said. †

Warriors' new head coach proud of his team

By Greg James | gregj@mycityjournals.com



The Warriors boys basketball team gathers around new head coach Bernie Graziano for final instructions in its win over Cyprus 72-50. (Greg James/City Journals)

The Taylorsville High School boys basketball team has inherited a coach that has spent lots of time at other schools in the Granite School District. The players hope his experience can help them take a step forward toward their goals.

"I am really proud of our guys," new head coach Bernie Graziano said. "We have competed in some very tough places to play. I feel like we have some areas we need to improve, but we have played pretty well. We have been making the extra pass and going after the defense."

The Warriors have three players averaging in double figures: Crosby Bringhurst, Marc Pacheco and Daniel Springer.

"Different kids on different nights really lead us," Graziano said. "Marc is one of the leading scorers. We are very athletic and hard to guard. Jameson Larsen and Crosby Bringhurst are great athletes. The team likes each other and that is important. They are high character kids and very respectful."

Pacheco is a senior and stands 6-foot-4. He scored a season high 21 points against Olympus Nov. 29. Springer is a 6-foot-2 senior guard. He leads the team in assists by averaging almost three a game.

Bringhurst, a 6-foot-4 senior, has signed to play baseball at Kentucky and averages 11.1 points a game for the Warriors basketball team.

Their biggest win of the season was a road victory at Woods Cross. The Wildcats had only lost only one game all season. Four Warriors

scored in double figures; Taylorsville led most of the game and pulled away in the end to win by six, 72-66.

"We just need to work on turnovers going into our region games," Graziano said. "There are no nights off in our region. We are going to need to play defense and stay in games and pull out a few close ones."

The start of region games found the Warriors on the wrong side of the scoreboard in its two opening games. They lost to Brighton 80-57 and Jordan 69-49.

Taylorsville competes in Region 3 against Bingham (defending state champion), Copper Hills (runner-up), West Jordan, Cottonwood, Brighton and Jordan.

The Warriors last appearance in the state tournament was the 2014-15 season. They lost in the first round to Viewmont.

"These kids are a lot of fun to coach," Graziano said. "I think they are committed to trying to achieve our goals. They're great kids, and I love them. This is all about the kids, and we have goal to make it to the state tournament."

Graziano is in his first season at the helm of the Warriors basketball program. He has coached at Granger, Cottonwood, Fremont, Skyline and Hunter.

The state 5A boys basketball tournament is scheduled to begin Feb. 27 at the University of Utah and Utah Valley University. The Warriors must finish in fourth place or better in Region 3 to qualify for the tournament. †



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- February 3 Annual Awards Gala
- February 7 Leadership Institute
- February 10 New Member Orientation
- February 16 Board of Directors
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- March 14 Spring into Success

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The Stars are shining in Taylorsville

By Greg James | gregj@mycityjournals.com



As many as 40 percent of all NBA stars have D League experience. Jazz guard Raul Neto got some extra court time for the Stars on Jan. 11. (Paul Asay/ Salt Lake City Stars)

The NBA D-League affiliate of the Utah Jazz, the Salt Lake Stars, have flourished in the team's first season in Taylorsville. Their record may not show it, but success is measured in many other ways.

“We have a two-fold purpose,” said Stars General Manager Bart Sharp. “We are trying to develop players and give them an opportunity to stick with an NBA team. Equally important for us is a place for Jazz players to get extra playing and practice time.”

The Jazz returned from a five-game road trip Jan. 9. They were not practicing that day but decided that three of their younger players could use some extra court time. They assigned Dante Exum, Alec Burks and Raul Neto to the Stars for that day's practice. They then recalled them for the next night's game against the Cleveland Cavaliers. The next day, they reassigned Burks and Neto to the Stars once again to play against the Grand Rapids Drive.

“It gave Alec a place to work on coming back from an injury and Raul a place to get some game experience because he has not been playing much,” Sharp said.

The Stars defeated the Drive 129-94. Burks played 20 minutes and scored 13 points. Neto had a double-double (reaching double figures in two statistical categories). He scored 14 points and had 12 assists. He was one rebound from attaining a triple-double.

Several other players occupy a more stable place on the Stars' roster. Former Jazzman and fan favorite Sundiata Gaines has played 18 games for the stars and averages 12.6 points per game.

“Joel Bolombo has played several

games with us this season,” Sharp said. “He is getting game experience. It expedites their development.”

The Stars are 6-16 so far this season. The team plays its home games in the Lifetime Activities Center on the Taylorsville campus of the Salt Lake Community College.

“The one thing I hear the most is that the seats are right on top of the action,” Sharp said. “There is not a bad seat in the house. Throw in the kids' zone, and it is a wonderful experience. Lots of kids are up in the bounce house, having their face painted and shooting hoops. It is a very social experience. It is a very affordable night out at a professional basketball game.”

The players interact with the fans after the game for autographs and photos. The Stars in collaboration with SLCC invested time and money into the infrastructure of the LAC. That includes a video board, new scoreboards and improvements to the locker rooms.

“This can be a unique experience,” Sharp said. “We think this will be a big success for us. When the fans see what this is all about and see how great it is to be this close to the players and NBA basketball.”

The Stars are coached by Dean Cooper and play in the NBA D-League's Western Conference. The team was formerly known as the Idaho Stampede and began play in 2006. This is their first season in Taylorsville.

“I think it is interesting to know that nearly 40 percent of all NBA players have D-League experience,” Sharp said. “There are several of these guys that—if not this year—the next couple of years will be playing in the NBA.” †



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Thank You to our Community Investment Members



Bruins top basketball rankings

By Greg James | gregj@mycityjournals.com



The Bruins men's team is the defending NJCAA national champions. (Steve Specimen)



The SLCC women have been ranked as high as eighth in the country this season. (Steve Specimen)

The men's and women's basketball teams at Salt Lake Community College breezed through their preseason games and have now settled in to face their Region 18 rivals.

Men

The Bruins started the 2016-17 season just like they finished last year, on top. The defending National Junior College Athletic Association champions began the season winning 11 straight games.

They began play in the Scenic West Athletic Conference by splitting a two-game road trip. They beat USU-Eastern 73-72 and lost to Snow 83-80. They trailed at halftime in both games. They then traveled to Colorado Northwestern and defeated them 75-72 in overtime.

Isaiah White, a 6-foot-7 freshman, leads the team in scoring. He averages 14.6 points and 6.5 rebounds per game. Christian Gray has scored in double figures in 12 of the Bruins first 16 games.

Head coach Todd Phillips enters his sixth season at the helm of the Bruins. He led the team to a 31-8 overall record last season and was named NJCAA coach of the year.

Women

The women's team finds itself ranked eighth in the country with a 16-2 overall record. The women lost their only two games in the preseason

against Odessa College, 59-49, and New Mexico Junior College, 74-63.

They are undefeated in SWAC play, winning the three games by an average of 30 points apiece.

"I feel pretty good about this team," Bruins head coach Betsy Specketer said. "They have bought into what we are teaching them, and we are a hard team to match up against. I think we have a lot of weapons. Bruins head coach Betsy Specketer said. I like our chances and it is our goal to win a championship."

Freshman Tia Hay, from Melbourne, Australia, is the team's leading scorer. She averages 19.8 points per game. She had a season-high 32 points against Chemeketa Community College Dec. 3 and is the ninth-leading scorer in the country.

"Tia is sneaky quick and she scores quiet points," Specketer said. "She will fill up the stat sheet before you realize what she has done. She can finish well at the rim and shoot the three. She is a real dual threat."

Hay came to SLCC via Colorado State. And has found a team that she likes playing for.

"I am glad I came here," Hay said, admitting that being from Australia she has had to adjust to a different culture... "I like all of the girls and am learning to play a new position. Everyone always asks if I have a pet kangaroo, so yeah I guess I do."

The Bruins have averaged 72.1 points per game, but more impressive their defense has been solid. Their opponents are shooting only 31 percent from the field and 27 percent from behind the three-point line.

"This is close to home, and I have always loved coach Betsy (Specketer)," Freshman Rian Rawlings said. "This year has been really exciting so far. I know we have what it takes to advance far."

Specketer enters her 21st season as the Bruins head coach. They are coming off one of the best seasons ever. The ended their season ranked third in the country after falling in the elite eight of the NJCAA national championship.

"We will need some luck to fall our way, and we need to stay healthy," Specketer said. "I have seen the men win two championships, and I know it is attainable. Our goal is March (when the National Junior College Tournament will be held), and I think we have the ingredients to compete for that championship."

The Region 18 men's and women's tournaments will be held at the Lifetime Activities Center on the Taylorsville campus of the Salt Lake Community College March 2-4.

The women's final four is scheduled for March 20 in Lubbock, Texas. The men's championship is scheduled to be held in Hutchinson, Kansas. †

INDUSTRY NEWS

NEWS FROM OUR ADVERTISERS

Millions of taxpayers face refund delays in 2017

H&R
BLOCK

**New tax law
requires the IRS
to hold
some refunds
until
February 15**

As many as 15 million taxpayers could have their refunds delayed until at least February 15 next year. The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act now requires the IRS to hold refunds for returns claiming the earned income tax credit (EITC) and additional child tax credit (ACTC) until February 15. Approximately 30 million taxpayers claim the EITC or ACTC, with half filing early.

Taxpayers should file as they normally would, even if they expect their refund will be delayed. The IRS still expects to issue most refunds in less than 21 days, although the IRS will hold refunds for EITC and ACTC-related tax returns filed early in 2017 until February 15 and then begin issuing them.

While the IRS will release those refunds on February 15 many taxpayers may not see the funds deposit into their banking accounts for a few days afterward. This additional delay could be for many reasons and it is best for taxpayers to check the IRS's Where's My Refund website for any funding updates.

Delay helps IRS combat tax identity fraud

The EITC received nationwide averaged approximately \$2,500 per eligible taxpayer last year. While \$65.6 billion was paid out last year, the IRS indicates that approximately one in five payments are made in error, either through fraudulent filing or confusion due to complexity in claiming the benefit. These credits are target rich for tax identity thieves and fraudsters. In fact, the EITC has one of the highest improper payment rates of the 16 "high-error" programs identified by the government.

Holding taxpayer refunds until February 15, along with the mandate that employers send employee W-2s to the IRS by January 31, allows the IRS additional time to help prevent revenue lost due to identity theft and refund fraud related to fabricated wages and withholdings.

It is important for taxpayers who claim these benefits to plan now for the delay. Visiting with a tax professional now can help them better understand the overall impact.

Delays just one part of tax law changes

The PATH Act made dozens of changes to the tax code, including permanently extending many tax benefits, implementing renewal requirements for Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs), changing eligibility requirements for certain tax credits, expanding other tax benefits, increasing the cost of making mistakes and altering small business tax benefits. But its delay of millions of refunds until at least February 15 will be widely felt by early filers who in the past could expect a refund which averaged more than \$3,500 in 2015 by late January.

To learn more about tax law changes and refund delays due to the PATH Act, taxpayers can visit www.hrblock.com/path.

[Sam Hernandez is a tax professional for H&R Block, the world's largest tax services provider. Sam has been providing expert tax advice and preparation support for taxpayers in the Salt Lake City area since 2010.]

A New Way to Celebrate Valentine's Day



**COUPONS
4UTAH**

by
JOANI TAYLOR

I remember as a child carefully picking the card from the box of Valentines that had the perfect pun on it for that particular friend. Maybe it was a picture of an Elephant, "I won't forget you are my Valentine" or the bear that proclaims "I can't bear to be without you."

We would carefully tear along the dotted lines, so as not to rip them, then stuff each envelope with pink and yellow hearts, that when combined, made a secret message? Then we would run around the neighborhood leaving our creations on the doorsteps of our friends and those we had a childhood crush on. I remember that no matter how much we licked the envelope it wouldn't stay stuck shut.

Later as teens, when the hormones were raging, Valentines became a day of Teddy Bears and giant candy kisses, first dates and holding hands in the movie. Then finally I found that special someone and Valentines became the day where we would present cards to each other and try to think of creative ways to express our love without spending too much.

After over 3 decades of marriage though, I'm finding that few of the sentiments on cards apply and I have often considered designing my own line of valentine cards that are sold according to the number of years one has been together.

"Valentine, our body's may be sagging, but my love for you never will." Or:

"I can't wait to celebrate our love tonight at



Monte's Steakhouse and use the buy 1, get 1 free coupon we have."

As the years have gone by, it's become the day to day little things that mean more to me than this designated day of love, like when my hubby brings me a cup of early morning coffee before I get out of bed or folding a load of laundry on a night when I'm working late.

Valentines has really just become another day for us, so we decided to do something different and make Valentines a day of generosity. Instead of making it a selfish day of loving each other, something we already do every day, we're turning it into a day of loving one another. We've discovered that by spending time together giving back is wonderful way to spread some Valentine cheer and

bring us closer together at the same time. Here's a few ideas we've had for this year:

- Make arrangements to drop off Valentine goodies to an elderly care facility. While at it you could stay a while and play a game of cards or just listen while they reminisce about the person they are missing.
- Contact a children's grief facility, like the Sharing Place, and donate craft boxes or needed supplies.
- Plan a date night volunteering at the Utah Food Bank or serving up a meal at your local shelter.
- Instead of dinner at a restaurant, have dinner at a charity event. Many non-profits hold charity gala's and auctions. To find them, check <http://www.valleyjournals.com/calendar> or contact the charity foundation of your choice.
- Give blood together. It's something we all intend to do, make a date of it and then have a meal together afterwards.

Making February 14th a day to open your heart and share generosity is a great way for those of us with or without a Valentine. What better way is there to spend Valentine's Day?

Joani Taylor is the founder of Coupons4Utah.com. A website devoted to helping Utah families save time and money on restaurants, things to do and everyday needs.



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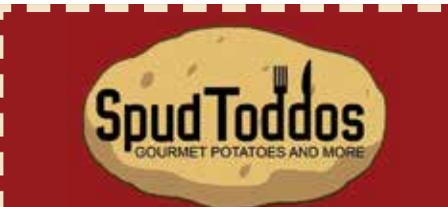


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Life AND Laughter

by PERI KINDER



Head Over Heels

I'm a terrible romantic. I mean that literally. I'm terrible at being romantic. When God handed out sentimentality, I was hiding in a bathroom stall eating a box of chocolate donuts. If I'd married an unfeeling psychopath that wouldn't be a problem, but my husband could be the spokesperson for the Hallmark channel.

He'll plan Valentine's Day like he's competing for a spot on "The Nicholas Sparks Romance-A-Thon Reality Evening." There's roses and poetry and candlelight and chocolates and puppies and rainbows and glitter. And then there's me, sitting dumbfounded saying something like, "Did Valentine's Day come early this year?"

Don't get me wrong. I'm lucky to have a husband who remembers not only my birthday, but the time of my birth, what the #1 song was and the Oscar-winning movie from the year I was born.

But by comparison, it makes me look pretty pathetic.

I often return kind thoughts with chilling sarcasm—but he still hugs me and makes me feel like I'm not quite the monster I think I am. (But he should probably stop calling me FrankenPeri.)

So because of all the sweetness he shows me, and because I'm still learning this whole romance thing, this is my Valentine's letter to my hubbie:

Thank you for having my back and being willing to fly into battle to defend me from the smallest slights.

Thank you for telling me I'm beautiful even without make-up (you always look beautiful without make-up) and when my hair looks like I barely survived a rabid ferret attack.

Thank you for not noticing when I have a zit the size of Mt. Rushmore hanging off my chin. Well, I'm sure you notice, but thank you for not calling me the Zit Witch.

The same goes for when I have a scorch mark on my forehead from the flat iron, a gash on my shin from my razor and cuticles that look like I get manicures with a cheese grater.

Thank you for telling me when the bloody parts are over during Quentin Tarantino's films. Thank you for not taking me to any more Quentin Tarantino movies.

Thank you for not noticeably rolling your eyes when I serve a meal consisting of quinoa, sweet potatoes and kale. Thank you for ordering pizza when the meal tastes like \$%&.*

Thank you for understanding that I hate watching romantic comedies (see paragraph #1) and appreciating when I sometimes suffer through a sob-fest of a manipulative romance. In return, thank you for occasionally watching animated films, even though you hate it as much as I despise romance.

Thank you for putting up with my irritations, like having an unstable bi-polar thermostat that ranges from Arctic cold to erupting volcano. Thank you for not freaking out when I blow our budget on

Amazon ("Where did that come from?").

Thank you for binge watching TV shows, not dragging me to parties, reading next to me in bed, laughing at my jokes, going to my yoga class and snuggling every morning before we head out to face the world.

And here's the funny thing. Despite my resistance and outer shell of cynicism, I often feel like the Grinch when his heart grows three sizes. I'll find myself crying at movies without embarrassment (but I'll still get offended when you offer me a tissue). You've taught me to appreciate sunsets, beautiful clouds and a gentle hug at the end of the day.

Maybe one day I'll change from being a terrible romantic to being terribly romantic. Probably not. But it could happen.



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plus

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or **1** year

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*Offer applies only to single-receipt qualifying purchases. Ashley HomeStore does not require a down payment, however, sales tax and delivery charges are due at time of purchase if the purchase is made with your Ashley Advantage™ Credit Card. No interest will be charged on promo purchase and equal monthly payments are required equal to initial promo purchase amount divided equally by the number of months in promo period until promo is paid in full. The equal monthly payment will be rounded to the next highest whole dollar and may be higher than the minimum payment that would be required if the purchase was a non-promotional purchase. Regular account terms apply to non-promotional purchases. For new accounts: Purchase APR is 29.99%; Minimum Interest Charge is \$2. Existing cardholders should see their credit card agreement for their applicable terms. Promotional purchases of merchandise will be charged to account when merchandise is delivered. Subject to credit approval. †Monthly payment shown is equal to the purchase price, excluding taxes and delivery, divided by the number of months in the promo period, rounded to the next highest whole dollar, and only applies to the selected financing option shown. If you make your payments by the due date each month, the monthly payment shown should allow you to pay off this purchase within the promo period if this balance is the only balance on your account during the promo period. If you have other balances on your account, this monthly payment will be added to the minimum payment applicable to those balances.

††Ashley HomeStore does not require a down payment, however, sales tax and delivery charges are due at time of purchase if the purchase is made with your Ashley Advantage™ Credit Card. Offer applies only to single-receipt qualifying purchases. No interest will be charged on the promo purchase if you pay the promo purchase amount in full within 12 or 24 Months. If you do not, interest will be assessed on the promo purchase from the purchase date. Regular account terms apply to non-promotional purchases and, after promotion ends, to promotional balance. For new accounts: Purchase APR is 29.99%; Minimum Interest Charge is \$2. Existing cardholders should see their credit card agreement for their applicable terms. Subject to credit approval.

‡Subject to credit approval. Minimum monthly payments required. See store for details.

§Previous purchases excluded. Cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount. Discount offers exclude Tempur-Pedic®, Stearns & Foster®, Sealy Optimum™ and Sealy Posturepedic Hybrid™ mattress sets, floor models, clearance items, sales tax, furniture protection plans, warranty, delivery fee, Manager's Special pricing, Advertised Special pricing, and 14 Piece Packages and cannot be combined with financing specials. Effective 12/30/15, all mattress and box springs are subject to an \$11 per unit CA recycling fee. SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. Stoneledge Furniture LLC, many times has multiple offers, promotions, discounts and financing specials occurring at the same time; these are allowed to only be used either/or and not both or combined with each other. Although every precaution is taken, errors in price and/or specification may occur in print. We reserve the right to correct any such errors. Picture may not represent item exactly as shown, advertised items may not be on display at all locations. Some restrictions may apply. Available only at participating locations. *DURABLEND™ upholstery products feature a seating area made up of a combination of Polyurethane and/or PVC, Polycotton, and at least 17% Leather Shavings with a skillfully matched combination of Polycotton and Polyurethane and/or PVC everywhere else. **Leather Match upholstery features top-grain leather in the seating areas and skillfully matched vinyl everywhere else. Ashley HomeStores are independently owned and operated. ©2017 Ashley HomeStores, Ltd. Promotional Start Date: January 31, 2017. Expires: February 27, 2017.